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The homeless are not a constituency: serving health needs of the inadequately housed in India

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THE HOMELESS ARE NOT A CONSTITUENCY:

SERVING HEALTH NEEDS
OF THE INADEQUATELY HOUSED IN INDIA

The health of those living on the street, or without secure housing, is poorer than those with a place to call home. While this is an established public health problem across the globe, the vast majority of research that has looked at the health outcomes of inadequately housed groups comes from Europe and North America. In countries such as India however, where it is estimated nearly a million people live on the streets in cities, the sheer size and nature of the poor health suffered by homeless people has only been roughly mapped. This lack of knowledge on the relationship between health and housing insecurity in India makes it harder to intervene and try to help. The Homeless are not a Constituency aims to strengthen the knowledge base on the relationship between housing insecurity and health in India, in order to inform interventions in the fields of healthcare service provision, advocacy and local policy. The research was engaged with one NGO in Delhi, the Centre for Equity Studies, which manages healthcare outreach teams for homeless people living on the city's streets.

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